Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 131888 ORIGIN HEW-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OES-07 EB-08 COME-00 EA-12 OPR-02 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 /058 R

DRAFTED BY DHEW/FDA: WJKUSTKA:CM APPROVED BY OES/ENP/EN: WJWALSH, III DHEW/PHS/OASH/OIH: RFISCHER EUR/CE:SKLINGAMAN(INFO)

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P 241546Z MAY 78 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 131888

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SWEL, GW

SUBJECT: SHIPMENT OF DECOMPOSED MUSHROOMS

- 1. THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION (FDA) HAS EXAMINED A SHIPMENT OF CANNED MUSHROOMS FROM TAIWAN AND FOUND THEM TO HAVE BEEN UNDERPROCESSED AND A POTENTIAL DANGER TO HEALTH. FDA HAS NOW DISCOVERED THAT WHILE BEING DETAINED IN IMPORT STATUS, THE MUSHROOMS WERE RE-EXPORTED TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY.
- 2. THE SHIPMENT CONSISTS OF APPROXIMATELY 800 CARTONS (6/68 OZ. CANS EACH) LABELED, "PACIFIC ISLE BRAND XXX PIECES AND STEMS XXX STRAW MUSHROOMS XXX NET DRAINED WEIGHT 68 OZ. (4LB 4OZS) DISTRIBUTED BY WILBUR-ELLIS CO. SAN FRANCISCO CALIFORNIA 94014 PRODUCT OF TAIWAN THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA". THERE WERE TWO CAN CODES "SMP 7526 (550 CASES) AND "SMP 7520 (270 CASES".

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PAGE 02 STATE 131888

3. THE SHIPMENT WAS CONSIGNED TO AMER FRIDLE, 4005 MUER-DEACH-BUEDRICH, NECKLENBROICHERSTR 86, HAMBURG, FRG. SHIPMENT WAS ON THE SS MEDORFEA DUE TO ARRIVE IN HAMBURG APRIL 1, 1978. THE U.S. IMPORTER WAS WILBUR ELLIS CO., NEW YORK, N.Y. AND THE MANUFACTURER IS T.K. CANNED FOODS,

CORP., TAIWAN.

- 4. FDA EXAMINATION OF LOT SHOWED SOME LEAKERS AND SWOLLEN CANS. ANALYSIS SHOWED THE PRODUCT TO BE DECOMPOSED (MUSHY) AND TO CONTAIN FLAT SOURS. GRAM POSITIVE MESO-PHILIC FACULTATIVE ANOEROBIC SPORE-FORMING RODS WERE ISOLATED FROM SOME CANS. TESTS OF THESE SHOWED HEAT RESISTANCE EQUAL TO THE CLASSICAL HEAT RESISTANCE OF CLOSTRIDIUM BOTULINUM. C. BOTULINUM WAS NOT ISOLATED. SINCE CAN SEAMS WERE ADEQUATE, FDA CONCLUDES THAT PRODUCT WAS UNDERPROCESSED.
- 5. SUGGEST PROPER AUTHORITIES IN FRG BE NOTIFIED. CHRISTOPHER

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Subject: SHIPMENT OF DECOMPOSED MUSHROOMS

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To: BONN Type: TE

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